

Abstract of the Disclosure

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR ADJUSTING THE PRE-LOAD OF A SPRING

A pre-loaded spring mechanism includes a piezoelectric device and a pre-loaded spring operatively connected to the device. A voltage source is coupled to the piezoelectric device to apply a voltage to the device. The applied voltage causes the piezoelectric device to undergo a physical dimensional change that changes the pre-load of the spring. The pre-load of the spring is adjusted by selectively varying the voltage applied to the piezoelectric device.